

SENIOR REVIEW COMMITTEE



Jenny Oropeza, Member, California State Assembly

Assemblywoman Jenny Oropeza first became active in community service as student body president while she was a student at CSU Long Beach. She later served two terms on the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education, starting in 1988. In 1994 she was elected to the Long Beach City Council and was elected to the California State Assembly representing the 55th Assembly District in November 2000.

In addition to chairing the Assembly Transportation Committee, Oropeza serves on the Agriculture Committee; the Committee on Appropriations; the Committee on Governmental Organization and the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy. Her other committee assignments include co-chair of the Select Committee on Title IX and the Select Committee on National Defense, Technology and Jobs.



Tom Torlakson, California State Senator

Senator Tom Torlakson represents the 7th Senate District, which includes most of Contra Costa County. He is Chair of the Senate Local Government Committee and Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Infrastructure.

Tom's career in public service began as a science teacher in 1972. After building a strong reputation as an effective community leader, he was elected to the Antioch City Council in 1978. He was first elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in 1980 and achieved a 99.9% attendance record at Board meetings over four terms spanning 16 years. Tom was elected to 11th Assembly District in 1996 and was re-elected in 1998. Tom became a leader in education and public safety while fighting for transportation improvements and a balance between jobs and affordable housing. Tom was elected to the 7th Senate District in 2000.



Donna Arduin, Director, California Department of Finance

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Donna Arduin as Director of Finance in November 2003. Prior to her appointment as Director, Schwarzenegger appointed Arduin to undertake an outside, independent audit of California government and state finances.

Arduin most recently served as the Director for the Florida Office of Policy and Budget for Governor Jeb Bush, where she formulated the governor's policy recommendations and negotiated with the legislature to enact his budget policies. Prior to working for Governor Bush, Arduin held similar positions in New York and Michigan, helping to turn those states' finances around. She served Governor George Pataki for four years as first deputy and acting budget director, and Governor John Engler for three years as chief deputy director of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.



Fred Aguiar, Secretary of the California State and Consumer Services Agency

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Fred Aguiar as Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency in December of 2003.

Prior to his appointment as Agency Secretary, Aguiar had a distinguished twenty five-year career in public service in both local and state office. He served fourteen years as both Mayor and City Council Member in the City of Chino, six years as State Assemblyman representing the 61st Assembly District and five years as San Bernardino County Supervisor.



A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed A.G. Kawamura as secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in November 2003. Secretary Kawamura is a produce grower and shipper from Orange County, where his family grows strawberries, green beans and other specialty crops.

Secretary Kawamura has a long history of public service to his community and to agriculture. At the time of his appointment, he was a member of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he had served since 1998. He is the immediate past chairman of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee, a USDA advisory position for international trade. He also held board positions with CDFA's Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, a partnership with U.C. Davis, and with the California Institute for Specialty Crops, a partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.



Mike Chrisman, Secretary of the California Resources Agency

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Mike Chrisman California's ninth Secretary for Resources on November 21, 2003. Secretary Chrisman was formerly Region Manager for Southern California Edison Company from 1996 to 2003 where he managed all phases of company/customer business, political and civic activities in Edison's San Joaquin Valley service area.

Prior to joining Southern California Edison, he served as Undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) from 1994 to 1996 where he provided leadership in the development and implementation of sound policy for the state's agricultural industry and consumers while managing a \$190 million budget and 3,800 employees.

Secretary Chrisman previously served at the Resources Agency as Deputy Secretary for Operations/Legislation in the Wilson Administration from 1991 to 1994. He served as Staff Director of the Assembly Republican Caucus in 1991 advising members of the Legislature on environmental, water and agriculture issues. From 1986 to 1991, Secretary Chrisman served as Chief of Staff to former Assemblyman Bill Jones managing the Central Valley member's State Capitol and District offices and specializing in agriculture, water and environmental issues.

Since 1966, Secretary Chrisman has been the owner/partner of Chrisman Ranches in Visalia, a family ranching and farming operation in Tulare County. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and was appointed by U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton.



Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary of the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency

As Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Sunne Wright McPeak directs California's largest government agency.

Ms. McPeak was formerly President and CEO of the Bay Area Council. During her tenure at the Bay Area Council, Ms. McPeak established and led major regional initiatives that addressed policy challenges involving transportation, housing, sustainable economic development, water policy, telecommunications infrastructure, and education and workforce preparation. All of her work for the employer-sponsored, CEO-led public policy organization was directed at strengthening the nine county region's economy and improving the quality of life of its residents.

Prior to joining the Bay Area Council in November of 1996, Ms. McPeak served for three years as President and CEO of the Bay Area Economic Forum, a partnership formed in 1988 by the Bay Area Council and the Association of Bay Area Governments to facilitate public-private collaboration for promoting the regional economy.

Before the Bay Area Economic Forum, Ms. McPeak was a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors for more than 15 years. She was first elected to office in 1978 and served as Chairman several terms. As a Supervisor, she became known as a leader on State water policy and also was one of the earliest advocates for promoting regional solutions to Bay Area policy challenges. Earlier in her career, she owned a management-consulting firm, served as Executive Director of the Pittsburg Community Health Center and was a consultant to the Contra Costa Comprehensive Health Planning Association.



Ruben Grijalva, California State Fire Marshal

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ruben Grijalva as the 13th State Fire Marshal of California on August 16, 2004. Previously, Chief Grijalva was the Fire Chief for the City of Palo Alto, California for 10 years. He has 30 years experience working in the field of Public Safety. He had worked for Palo Alto since 1990, becoming the Fire Chief in 1994. Prior to that Chief Grijalva worked for the City of Sunnyvale, California, Department of Public Safety, for 16 years working in both police and fire capacities. Chief Grijalva has expertise in criminal justice administration and the development of fire prevention and hazardous materials regulations. While in Palo Alto, he focused on introducing new technologies to the fire service, improving emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness. He has had extensive experience in negotiations of various types, from labor negotiations to legislative and code development to hostage negotiations. He was recognized for his role as the primary hostage negotiator in the 1988 incident in Sunnyvale, CA at a company named ESL where he successfully negotiated the surrender of the largest mass murderer in Santa Clara County history.